

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CATARION SANCHEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April, 26, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Catarion Sanchez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Catarion Sanchez is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Catarion Sanchez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Catarion Sanchez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I would like commend Israel on her 62nd Anniversary since her founding.

Likewise, it is the 62nd Anniversary of the U.S.-Israel bond, which remains strong and indissoluble.

Israel is our fellow democracy, our tried and true ally. Supporting it is essential to the stability and future of the Middle East. In fact Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East.

In just 62 years a people that suffered at the hands of Hitler and European anti-Semitism built a nation. From the ashes of 6,000,000 who died in the Holocaust a people a nation rose to make a desert bloom. In 62 years Israel has made tremendous strides becoming a world leader in technology, agriculture, water resource management, healthcare, pharmaceuticals and so many other areas. The first generation of Sabras from Europe quickly welcomed new immigrants who were forcibly evicted from Arab lands. Further waves of immigrants came from the breakup of the Soviet Union, from Ethiopia and most recently from France. Israel has held steadfast to the principles of its founding fathers and been a welcome source for any Jew anywhere in the world seeking refuge.

From the creation of Israel 62 years ago and its immediate recognition by the United States, the ties between our two countries continue to be strong. A democracy like ours, Israel's politics have been robust with many participants and many parties represented. Consistently throughout its history through wars and in times of relative peace, the Israeli people have made their democracy stronger and the relationship between the world's largest Jewish community and the world's largest diaspora community stronger.

And any nation or group that chooses to treat Israel as a suspect state and threatens Israel, particularly with violence, should know that its actions ultimately do damage to the shared values that all democracies espouse.

Following the failed Iranian elections in June, the Iranian regime has had its legitimacy wounded and its paranoia increased. Iran now takes a posture of increased repression at home and antagonism abroad. In that dangerous environment, Israel's leaders have every right to be concerned for their country's safety.

While hope still exists for a free Iran, Europe, Israel and the United States must undoubtedly prepare for a more dangerous Iranian regime in the near term. We must prevent Iran's increased pursuit of nuclear weapons through hard-hitting sanctions, after all, I personally look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries with Israel.

There seems to be a certain line of thinking in the international community that Iran poses no threat.

It is this very failure to prepare that puts Israel and the entire international community at risk. Now is the time to prepare.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this Congress and the United States to make the Iranian regime pay a higher cost for its nuclear weapons pursuit.

If we needed any further reminder, the protests in the streets of Tehran have made clear that words mean very little to Ayatollah Khamenei.

The threat from Iran demands an effective policy response and our Israeli friends must see clear action from their age-old ally that we are in this together.

If the Iranian regime faced damaging economic pressure from a significant reduction in gasoline supplies, it may change course.

And an ever present threat to Israel, and to global security, may be alleviated. Nothing endangers peace more than a refusal to face facts.

Even as we set deadlines that are never met with Iran might begin, let's remember that they continue to enrich uranium and that a deadline with real consequences must be considered along with engagement—otherwise engagement will be manipulated as a mere tactic for delay.

I am glad that this House chose to face Iran today through voting to instruct conferees on the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act and support Israel,

the Middle East and even the Gulf states against a growing threat in the region.

I have high hopes that the international community will do the same.

Once again, I congratulate, Prime Minister Netanyahu and the people of Israel our friend and ally on this momentous occasion.

The U.S. was there ten minutes following Israel's founding and will be with her for many, many more years to come.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF NATIONAL FINANCIAL
LITERACY MONTH, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support House Resolution 1257, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Financial Literacy Month.

In these tough economic times, increasing financial literacy is one of the best ways we can accomplish a complete recovery and take significant steps to prevent another crisis.

Every day, many Americans struggle with their finances. These problems are especially prevalent among young adults and minorities.

In fact, the FDIC found in a recent study that approximately 60,000,000 people in the U.S. are underbanked.

These numbers are more disturbing when we look at the percentage of underbanked people among minorities: 43.3 percent of Hispanic households and close to 54 percent of Black households are either unbanked or underbanked.

We must do more to educate every American on how to safely manage their wealth and build a stable foundation for themselves and their family's future.

In the fall, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. MCCARTHY, and I introduced an amendment that would create a new consumer education office within the proposed Consumer Financial Protection Agency.

This office will operate programs and develop initiatives to ensure that all financial institutions are doing their part to come up with innovative ways to increase financial literacy among their consumers.

Throughout my time in Congress I have been a consistent supporter of improving financial literacy efforts and I am committed to remaining one as long as I hold office.

I want to commend Mr. HINOJOSA on his hard work on this issue and for bringing this resolution to this floor.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of House Resolution 1257, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Financial Literacy Month, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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